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(54) Title: PATHOGENICITY DETERMINANTS WHICH CAN BE USED AS TARGETS FOR DEVELOPING MEANS FOR PREVENTING AND CONTROLLING BACTERIAL INFECTIONS AND/OR SYSTEMIC DISSEMINATION

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method for identifying and selecting a gene required for the proliferation in vivo of a pathogenic microorganism, comprising: using a strain of the pathogenic microorganism, generating mutants for inactivation in the genes encoding these factors, determining the virulence of these mutants on an expiremental model of infection, and their effect on enteric colonization in an axenic mouse model, and selecting the bacterial genes essential for resistance to serum in vitro, and essential, in the host, for dissemination in the serum. Application to the screening of compounds which inhibit the products of the genes identified, and to the inhibition in vitro of the proliferation of a pathogenic microorganism in serum.





Pathogenicity determinants which can be used as targets for developing means for preventing and controlling bacterial infections and/or systemic dissemination

The invention relates to pathogenicity determinants which can be used as targets for developing means for preventing and controlling bacterial infections and/or systemic dissemination.

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Current treatments for infectious diseases of bacterial origin are based on the inhibition of essential bacterial targets in vitro using antibiotics. These targets are conserved in many bacterial species and make it possible to treat various types of infection. However, broad-spectrum antibiotics are active on the host's commensal flora, which promotes the acquisition and transfer of mechanisms of resistance to these antibiotics, hence a limiting of the effectiveness of current treatments with antibiotics. A need therefore exists for novel antibacterial treatments.

In this regard, the invention provides a novel strategy, the aim of which is to specifically target pathogenic bacteria without significantly altering their growth at their portal of entry into the host organism, where they are in a situation of commensalism. These pathogens are in particular the bacteria responsible for serious systemic infections, such as *E.coli*, in general *Enterobacteria*, *Pseudomonas*, *Acinetobacter*, *Moraxella* and *Neisseria* and, for the gram positives, the bacteria of the genus *Staphylococcus*, *Enterococcus* and *Streptococcus*.

It is known, specifically, that the bacteria responsible for serious infections are capable of growth in the presence of serum and are resistant to the bactericidal action of

complement. This resistance allows dissemination of the infection, *via* the blood, to the various tissues of the host's body.

5 The ability of bacteria to grow in human serum is due to pathogenicity/virulence factors. Among frequently cited, mention will be made of the physical barrier, represented by the capsule, for access of complement to the bacterial membrane, the sialic acids of the capsule or 10 of the O antigen which promote binding of factor H to c3b, and particular surface proteins such PorA as (Neisseria gonorrhoeae), YadA (Yersinia pestis) orprotein Μ (Streptococcus pyogenes), which bind factor H, all these factors preventing complement activation.

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Other proteins expressed or bound by the pathogens have proved to be important for resistance to complement and cause cleavage of complement factors or inhibit their binding to the surface of the bacterium (Rautemaa R.; Meri S., Microbes and Infection 1999, 1:785:794).

The lipopolysaccharide (LPS) of gram-negative bacteria known to be a virulence factor, but the role of its various constituents on the resistance to serum has not been 25 established for all bacterial species. For example, in some E.coli, the O antigen is considered to studies in determinant (Burns S.M. Hull S.I. Infect Immun, 1998, Sept 66(9):4244-53); in other studies, the O antigen is thought to be less determinant than the capsular antigens for resistance 30 serum (Russo T. et al., Infect Immun, 63(4):1263-9). Furthermore, the importance of these factors on intestinal colonization is unknown.

systematic analysis of have carried out a mutants for inactivation of the genes required for surface and have demonstrated, polysaccharide synthesis, Escherichia coli strains responsible for extra-intestinal which genes are essential infections, EXPEC, resistance to serum and the dissemination in the blood. These results are based on the study of the effect of mutations on virulence and intestinal colonization in an animal model.

- directed towards novel therefore is 10 The invention methodology for defining the targets required for virulence, and not essential in vitro, and thus providing novel antiagents specific for pathogenic bacteria, infectious particular for extra-intestinal E.coli, responsible for severe Gram positive strains, well as infections, as 15 It is also directed towards the Streptococcus agalactiae. products of the genes required for resistance in the serum and virulence in vivo.
- 20 The method of the invention for identifying and selecting a gene required for the proliferation *in vivo* of a pathogenic microorganism is characterized in that it comprises:
  - using a strain of the pathogenic microorganism,
  - generating mutants for inactivation in the genes encoding the virulence factors,
    - determining the virulence of these mutants on an experimental model of infection and their effect on enteric colonization in an axenic mouse model, and
- selecting the bacterial genes essential for resistance to
   serum in vitro and essential, in the host, for dissemination in the blood.

The pathogenic microorganism is in particular an EXPEC strain of E.coli or a Streptococcus agalactiae strain.

The virulence gene inactivation mutants used in this method fall within the scope of the invention.

Said mutants are characterized by the following properties: they are sensitive to serum; they are avirulent in mice model and they are able to colonize gut of axenic mice.

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The invention is also directed towards the pathogenicity or virulence factors encoded by nucleic acids thus identified, which are necessary for the dissemination via the blood, but significantly affect the intestinal or colonization of pathogenic bacteria such as E.coli, Salmonella typhimurium, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Yersinia pestis, Serratia marcescens, Haemophilus influenzae, Pasteurella multocida, Vibrio cholerae, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Acetinobacter, Moraxella catarrhalis, Burkholderia pseudomallei, Neisseria meningitidis, Neisseria gonorrhoeae, Campylobacter jejuni, Helicobacter pylori, Bacteroides fragilis, Clostridium acetobutylicum, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Streptococcus pyogenes, Streptococcus agalactiae, Staphyloccus aureus and Enterococcus.

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The invention is in particular directed towards the pathogenicity or virulence targets encoded by isolated or purified nucleic acids having sequences SEQ ID Nos 16-30.

30 The pathogenicity or virulence targets of the invention are more particularly encoded by nucleic acids having sequences SEQ ID Nos 16,17,19-30.

Said nucleic acids are cDNAs or RNAs.

It particularly relates to pathogenicity or virulence targets encoded by nucleic acids of *E.coli*.

In another embodiment of the invention, the pathogenicity or virulence targets are encoded by nucleic acids of Streptococcus agalactiae.

The invention is also directed towards the vectors comprising at least a nucleic acid coding for a pathologenicity or virulence target such as above defined and also the host cells containing at least one vector under the control of a suitable promoter.

The invention is also directed towards pathogenicity or virulence factors corresponding to isolated or purified polypeptides or peptides having one of the amino acid sequences SEQ ID Nos 1-15.

It more particularly relates to pathogenicity or virulence factors corresponding to isolated or purified polypeptides or peptides having the amino acid sequences SEQ ID Nos 1,2,4-15.

The antibodies which are capable of binding specifically to the peptides and polypeptides corresponding to said factors are also part of the invention.

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These nucleic acids and peptides or polypeptides constitute targets for identifying compounds with a specific inhibitory effect on the systemic dissemination of a bacterial infection, and not on mucosal colonization or, for enterobacteria, on intestinal colonization, which makes it possible to preserve the commensal flora and to avoid the selection of resistance to the compounds.

The invention is thus directed towards the method for inhibiting the proliferation of a pathogenic microorganism in serum, comprising the use of an effective amount of a compound capable of inhibiting the activity, or of reducing the amount, of a nucleic acid as defined above, or of a compound capable of inhibiting the activity of a polypeptide or of a peptide as defined above.

It is also directed towards a method for screening compounds capable of inhibiting the expression of these nucleic acids or of the corresponding polypeptides and peptides, comprising bringing them into contact with the test compound, demonstrating the possible effect of the compound on their activity, and selecting the active compounds.

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It is also directed towards a method for screening compounds capable of inhibiting the biochemical and/or enzyme activity of the polypeptides and peptides expressed by said nucleic acids.

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The compounds thus selected are used, in accordance with the invention, to produce medicinal products for inhibiting a bacterial infection, in particular an extra-intestinal infection in the case of enterobacteria.

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The invention thus provides a novel strategy and novel means for preventing or treating systemic bacterial dissemination, bacteraemia and septicaemia.

Other characteristics and advantages of the invention will be given in the following examples, with reference to Figures 1 to 3 and tables 1 to 5, said figures representing, respectively,

- Figure 1, the growth of S26 and of the mutant pg23 in serum,
- Figure 2, the growth of S26 and of the mutant pg23 in decomplemented serum, and
- 5 Figure 3, the virulence of the DltD mutant of S.agalactiae.

### Example 1 : gene corresponding to SEQ ID N°23:

## 1- Inactivation of the gene of interest

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The general strategy, based on a recombination system, consists in interrupting a gene, by allelic recombination, with a gene for selection (a gene for resistance to antibiotic in the present case) carried by a linear DNA fragment.

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Initially, a plasmid is introduced into the bacterium (for example E.coli), so as to introduce, in trans, the proteins which will induce the recombination. The plasmid carrying an ampicillin resistance gene is thermosensitive (30°C), which will make it possible to easily eliminate it after use in the bacterium.

The plasmid is introduced into the bacterium by electroporation. After electroporation, the ampicillin-resistant bacteria will be those which have integrated the plasmid, and will be selected. This step is entirely carried out at 30°C, the permissive temperature for the plasmid.

# Synthesis of the PCR fragment specific for the target gene (pg23)

A PCR is carried out, on a matrix plasmid carrying the selection gene (chloramphenicol resistance), using primers pg23P1 and pg23P2 of sequences SEQ ID No 31 and SEQ ID No 32, respectively, made up of two parts:

in 3': 20 bp homologous to the selection gene (chloramphenicol resistance): P1 or P2

in 5': 40 bp homologous to the target gene (pg23): H1 or H2

pg23P1:

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5 '

TCGTGCAGGCCAACCTGCACAACAGAGTGATTTGATTAACGTGTAGGCTGGAGCTGCTTC

3 '

H1

P1

Pq23P2:

 $\underline{\textbf{CAGGGTGCTGGCGCTCACCATTTCCGGAGACAGCTTAGAC}} \textbf{ACATATGAATATCCTCCTTA}$ 

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H2

P2

A DNA fragment consisting of the selection gene (CAT: Chloramphenicol Acetyl Transferase) flanked by the regions homologous to the target gene H1 and H2 is thus obtained.

### 10 Step for inactivation of the target gene

The bacterium containing the plasmid is cultured in LB medium at 30°C with shaking, in the presence of 100 mM ampicillin and of 1 mM L-arabinose so as to induce the recombination system. When the bacteria are in the exponential growth (OD<sub>600nm</sub>=0.5), the culture is stopped, and the bacteria are harvested and made electrocompetent. The PCR product specific for the target gene (pg23) is introduced into the bacterium by electroporation. The bacteria are then cultured in a nonselective rich medium (SOC medium) at 37°C with shaking for 2 hours, and then plated out onto selective LB agar medium. hours at 37°C, only the bacteria which After 18 integrated the gene for resistance to the antibiotic will have grown.

25 <u>Verification of the insertion of the resistance cassette</u>

In order to verify the insertion of the resistance cassette,

PCR reactions are carried out directly using colonies. Three

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pairs of primers are used: a pair in which the primers FR1 and FR2 frame the target gene, and two pairs using a primer located inside the resistance cassette, the other primer being located either upstream or downstream of the target gene.

Isolation of the mutated bacteria and elimination of the plasmid

The colonies thus verified by PCR are successively re-isolated on selected medium, twice on non-selective medium and a final time on selective medium at 37°C. Finally, the selected bacteria are tested for sensitivity to ampicillin, which reflects the absence of the plasmid. Three clones are thus chosen for each type of mutant.

# 15 2 - Test for the mutant with respect to resistance to the bactericidal activity of serum

The serum used is of human origin. In each experiment, growth was also effected for the wild-type strain (S26, clinical isolate of E.coli particularly resistant to serum and virulent in mice) and a strain, ECOR4, lacking a capsule and lipopolysaccharide (LPS). The growths were effected in triplicate and in two different sera. The growths were effected in parallel in complemented and decomplemented (30 min at  $56^{\circ}$ C) serum in order to verify that the effect observed was due only to the lytic action of complement.

Using a preculture of two hours in RPMI reference minimum medium, the bacteria are brought into contact with 100% serum, at a starting inoculum of  $10^4$ cfu/ml. Counts are then performed at times 0, 1 and 4 hours, by plating various dilutions out on LB agar medium in the presence or absence of antibiotic. After 18 hours at  $37^{\circ}$ C, the bacteria are counted and a growth curve

is produced from the results obtained. These results are given in Figures 1 and 2.

In this example, the mutant  $\Delta pg23$  exhibits considerable sensitivity to the serum: a difference from the wild-type strain of more than 2 log at 1 hour and of more than 4 log at 4 hours is in fact observed. In addition, the results obtained in decomplemented serum and with the strain ECOR4 in serum indicate that the effect observed is indeed due to the bactericidal action of complement.

### 3 - Study of the virulence in a mouse animal model

### Preparation of the inoculum

The wild-type mutated bacteria are isolated from the strain, stored at -80°C, on an LB agar dish with or without antibiotic, and incubated at 37°C for 18 hours. A preculture is prepared in liquid medium. Using a 1/10th dilution in 10 ml of LB, the culture is regrown at 37°C with shaking for 2 hours. After culturing for 2 hours, the OD<sub>600nm</sub> is measured and various dilutions are prepared in physiological saline, so as to obtain the desired inoculum. For the wild-type strain S26, the LD<sub>50</sub> corresponds to an inoculum of 5×10<sup>5</sup> cfu/mouse and the LD<sub>100</sub> corresponds to an inoculum of 1×10<sup>6</sup> cfu/mouse.

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#### Virulence test

The mice (6-week-old Balb/c) are given an intraperitoneal injection and the bacterial solution injected represents a volume of 100  $\mu$ l. Five mice are used per dose. For S26 $\Delta$ pg23, 4 inoculums were tested and the survival rate was measured after 24 and 48 hours post-injection. In each experiment, the study was carried out in parallel with the wild-type strain, the LD<sub>50</sub> of which is  $5\times10^5$  cfu/mouse.

The mutant S26 $\Delta$ pg23, injected at a dose equal to 10 times the LD<sub>100</sub>, causes no mortality, the mutation of the pg23 gene in the E.coli strain K1 S26 is therefore responsible for a considerable decrease in the virulence.

# 4 - Study of the intestinal colonization in an axenic mouse animal model

10 The entire experiment is carried out in a sterile environment, with sterile instruments, in an isolator, and the mice are given sterile food.

#### Mice

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15 These are 6- to 8-week-old axenic female mice of the C3H/He J line.

Four animals are used per bacterial strain.

#### 20 Preparation of the inoculum

The wild-type and mutated bacteria are isolated from the strain, stored at  $-80^{\circ}$ C, on an LB agar dish with or without antibiotic, and incubated at  $37^{\circ}$ C for 18 hours. After culturing the strain in liquid medium, various dilutions are prepared in physiological saline, so as to obtain an inoculum of  $10^{7}$  cfu/ml.

#### Colonization test

The bacterial inoculation is carried out orally. During the 24 hours preceding inoculation, the mice are deprived of water. They are then given a bacterial solution at 10<sup>7</sup> cfu/ml to drink for 4 hours. The volume of drink is measured at 0 and 4 hours, and, on average, a mouse absorbs 5 ml of this bacterial solution. The faeces are then sampled at various times, and a

bacterial count is performed, taking the faeces up in physiological saline and plating out various dilutions on an LB agar dish with and without antibiotic.

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TABLE 1

	CFU/mg	faeces
Time in hours	S26wt	S26∆pg23
0	0	0
4	6.85E+05	1.65E+05
25	1.86E+06	2.84E+06
118	8.34E+06	7.94E+06
456	4.14E+06	6.64E+06

The results are given in table 1 herein below.

For the wild-type strain S26, as well as for the mutant S26 $\Delta$ pg23, colonization in the intestine was stably established. No difference is observed between the wild-type strain and the mutant  $\Delta$ pg23. The colonization is confirmed on the final day by removing the intestine and counting the bacteria after grinding of this organ.

# 15 5 - Cloning and expression of the selected polypeptide

The nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide is cloned into a prokaryotic expression vector such as pET-14b with an N-terminal poly-his tag, according to conventional cloning methods.

The recombinant plasmid is then used to transform the *E.coli* strain BL21. The transformed cells are selected in the presence of ampicillin and the colonies are isolated. They are then cultured in the presence of IPTG in order to induce expression of the protein. The clones producing the protein

are cultured and the total proteins are extracted by cell lysis. The recombinant protein is purified with a histidine tag affinity column, according to the manufacturer's protocol.

5 The protein thus obtained is purified and used *in vitro* to measure its enzyme activity.

# Example 2 : serum sensitivity and LD<sub>50</sub> determination of mutant strains in the mice model of infection

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Said mutants were also compared to the wild type S26 E.coli strain for  $LD_{50}$  determination in the mice model of infection. As presented in Table 2 below, the number of colony forming unit (cfu) counted after culture for four hours in serum was higher in the wild type (wt) S26 strain than in mutants indicating that mutants were sensitive to serum killing. All the different mutants were either much less virulent in mice than the wild type strain as shown by the increase in  $LD_{50}$  (lethal dose 50), or completely avirulent as no dose killing 50% of mice could be reach with the mutants.

#### Table 2

Serum sensitivity and virulence attenuation for *E. coli* K1 S26 mutants in the proteins corresponding to sequence number 1 to 13

		Virulence	
Sequence	Serum sensitivity attenuation		
	#∆log (cfu/ml		
Number	serum)	* Δlog (LD50)	
1	+4	avirulent <sup>a</sup>	
. 2,	+4	+1	
3	+5	+1	
4	+4	+1	
5	+4	+2,5	
6	+4	+0,5	
7	+4	+0,5	
8	+4	avirulent <sup>a</sup>	
9	+1	avirulent <sup>a</sup>	
10	+2	avirulent <sup>a</sup>	
11	+4	+2	
12	+4	+2	
13	+4	avirulent <sup>a</sup>	

avirulent<sup>a</sup>: no dose killing 50% of mice could be reach with that mutant.

- 10 #  $\Delta$ log (cfu/ml serum) = log (cfu S26wt / ml serum) log (cfu S26 mutant / ml serum)
  - values obtained after 4 hours in serum
  - \*  $\Delta \log$  (LD<sub>50</sub>) = log (LD<sub>50</sub> S26mutant) log (LD<sub>50</sub> S26wt) values obtained 48 hours after inoculation
- The mutants of genes encoding the target proteins corresponding to sequences 1 to 13, which were attenuated for virulence, were still able to colonize the intestine of axenic mice as shown by persistence of bacteria in the faeces of the

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animals over a period of eight days. These results are presented in Table 3.

### Table 3

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Gut colonization for E. coli K1 S26 wt and mutants in the proteins corresponding to sequence number 1 to 13 in an axenic mouse model

	~	Gut colo	nization
	Sequence number	cfu/mg	faeces
		Day 1	Day 8
S26 wt		* 1,34.10 <sup>6</sup>	* 5,29.10 <sup>6</sup>
S26	1	9,73.10 <sup>5</sup>	2,51.10 <sup>6</sup>
mutants	2	1,02.10 <sup>6</sup>	6,85.10 <sup>6</sup>
	3	1,44.10 <sup>6</sup>	3,48.10 <sup>6</sup>
	4	1,24.10 <sup>6</sup>	1,65.10 <sup>6</sup>
	5	1,15.10 <sup>5</sup>	4,64.10 <sup>5</sup>
	6	9,96.10 <sup>5</sup>	3,51.10 <sup>6</sup>
	7	2,40.10 <sup>4</sup>	2,51.10 <sup>6</sup>
	8	2,84.10 <sup>6</sup>	6,64.10 <sup>6</sup>
	9	1,80.10 <sup>6</sup>	1,51.10 <sup>6</sup>
	10	9,62.10 <sup>5</sup>	2,24.10 <sup>6</sup>
	11	2,72.10 <sup>5</sup>	8,56.10 <sup>5</sup>
	12	3,13.10 <sup>5</sup>	9,09.10 <sup>5</sup>
	13	5,91.10 <sup>5</sup>	1,67.10 <sup>6</sup>

<sup>\*</sup> mean values based upon six experiments

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The bacteria colonizing the intestine of axenic mice after eight days were characterized to verify that they correspond to the mutant strains that were inoculated orally.

The bacteria recovered from the faeces of animals had a phenotype of chloramphenicol resistance and serum sensitivity,

the chloramphenicol acetyl transferase gene inserted during the mutagenesis could also be detected by PCR.

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Mutations in genes encoding target proteins (sequence number 1 to 13) were still present in bacteria colonizing the intestine of axenic mice as shown in Table 4.

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Table 4

Characterization of bacteria recovered from axenic mice after intestinal colonization by mutants in genes encoding proteins sequence 1 to 13

Sequence	Serum sensitivity	* Mutant
Number	# ΔLog (cfu/ml serum)	genotype
1	+5	Cm <sup>R</sup> , PCR +
2	+4	Cm <sup>R</sup>
3	+5	Cm <sup>R</sup>
4	+3	Cm <sup>R</sup>
5	+5	Cm <sup>R</sup> , PCR +
6	+2	Cm <sup>R</sup>
7	+2	Cm <sup>R</sup>
8	Nd Cm <sup>R</sup>	
9	+2 Cm <sup>R</sup>	
10	+3	Cm <sup>R</sup>
11	+5	Cm <sup>R</sup> , PCR +
12	+4	Cm <sup>R</sup> , PCR +
13	+4	Cm <sup>R</sup> , PCR +

#  $\Delta$ Log (cfu/ml serum) = log (cfu S26wt / ml serum) - log (cfu S26mutant / ml serum)

values obtained after 4 hours in serum

\*The presence of the gene encoding the chloramphenicol acetyltransferase, inactivating the genes encoding the proteins of sequence number 1 to 13, has been verified by PCR and chloramphenicol resistance  $(Cm^R)$ .

In conclusion, the results presented in this example demonstrate that genes encoding the enzymes involved in the LPS inner core metabolism are not essential in *E.coli* strains

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for colonization, but are necessary for resistance to complement and virulence in vivo.

They represent as such good targets for inhibitors that will selectively block bacterial replication in blood tissue.

## Example 2: mutants of protein SEQ ID N°14

The present invention relates to novel mutant strain of Group B Streptococcus (GBS) (Streptococcus agalactiae). In this particular example, the identified targets correspond to gene sequence number 29 encoding a protein sequence number 14 involved in incorporation of D-alanine residues into the cell wall-associated lipoteichoic acids (LTAs) in Gram + bacteria.

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The gene sequence number 29 is homologous to the *dltD* gene found in other gram positive bacteria and is the last gene of the dlt operon.

- 20 The Gram + bacterial model used is the pathogenic strain S. agalactiae NEM316. S. agalactiae is a bacterium commonly found in the human flora and is phylogenetically close to Gram + bacteria responsible for nosocomial septicemia.
- 25 The virulence of GBS mutants in the dlt operon is strongly impaired in mouse and newborn rat models.

Interestingly, the loss of virulence is presumably due to an increased sensitivity to antimicrobial cationic peptides, such as defensins, which are produced by numerous cells types in particular phagocytes.

The use of mutant of *S. agalactiae*, in which the *dltD* gene have been inactivated, demonstrates that the product of that gene is a good target for the development of inhibitors of virulence of *S. agalactiae* as well as against other Gram + pathogens.

# Construction of a DtlD mutant in wild type S. agalactiae NEM316:

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A mutant in the *dltD* gene was constructed from *S. agalactiae*5 NEM316 strain by inserting, using double cross-over, a kanamycin resistance cassette.

To construct DltD mutant of S. agalactiae NEM316, a promoterless and terminatorless kanamycin resistance cassette aphA-3 within DNA segment internal to dltD were inserted in the same direction of transcription. This was done by ligation after digestion with appropriate enzymes, of PCR products obtained by using the primers of SEQ ID N° 33 and 34 respectively,

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SEQ ID N°33 : 5'-CAGTGAATTCGCGTTGACGAAGGCAGG-3', and

SEQ ID N°34 : 5'-GACGGGTACCATACCTATCGTAGGTTG-3', and

the primers of SEQ ID  $N^{\circ}$  35 and SEQ ID  $N^{\circ}$ 36, respectively,

SEQ ID N°35 : 5'-AGTGGATCCACTACACAGGGCTTGATC-3', and

20 SEQ ID N°36: 5'-GACCTGCAGCCCTTGATTATCCCTATCC-3'.

A 0.4 kb dltD EcoRI-KpnI fragment was inserted into the thermosensitive shuttle vector pG+host5 $\Omega$ aphA-3 (Biswas et al., J Bacteriol. 175:3628-3635) containing the kanamycin resistance cassette to generate pG1 $\Omega$  EKaphA-3. A 0.8 25 closely spaced dltD region BamHI-PstI fragment was inserted into pG1 $\Omega$  EKaphA-3 to generate pG1 $\Omega$  EKaphA-3BP. The resulting vector was introduced by electroporation into Transformants were selected on Todd-Hewitt (TH) agar plates containing 10 mg l<sup>-1</sup> erythromycin at 30°C. Allelic exchange was 30 the non-permissive temperature (42°C) obtained at homologous recombination using a two-step procedure described previously (Biswas et al., 1993).

35 A double-crossover event between the homologous sequences resulted in nucleotides deletion and insertion of the kanamycine cassette. Recombinant bacteria containing this insertion deletion were selected for kanamycine resistance.

This chromosome disruption in the dltD gene was confirmed in one of the recombinant clones by sequencing the nucleotides of the mutant.

5 Sensitivity of the wild type *S. agalactiae* strain NEM316 and the DltD mutant to various antimicrobial peptides:

The sensitivity of wild type S. agalactiae NEM316 and DltD mutant to cationic antimicrobial peptides was measured by using a disk diffusion methods. The 2 strains were grown on blood agar plates and incubated for 18 hours at 37°C. Each strain was tested using colistin (50  $\mu$ g) and polymixin (10  $\mu$ g) disks. Sensitivity or resistance of NEM316 strain and the DltD mutant to each compound was determined by the size of the growth inhibition area around disk.

The DltD mutant exhibited an increased sensitivity to the cationic antimicrobial peptides colistin, and polymyxin B as shown in table 5.

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### Table 5

Results of sensitivity to colistin and polymixin B of control strains S. agalactiae NEM316 and DltD mutant

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	Disc	Inhibition area (mm)	
	content	NIEM216	Mutant
	(µg)	NEM316	DltD
Colistin	50	0	14
Polymixin B	10	0	14

# Study of virulence in a mouse animal model

We studied the role of DltD in the virulence of S. agalactiae. Groups of ten mice (six week-old Balb/c) were inoculated intravenously with 5 x  $10^7$  bacteria. At 2 days post infection, 80% of mice infected with the wild type strain NEM316 died and

only two deaths were recorded for mice infected with the DltD mutant. Figure 1 illustrates the results obtained with the DltD defective GBS mutant. The result demonstrates that the product of the dltD gene is necessary for virulence of GBS in mice.

#### CLAIMS

- 1. Method for identifying and selecting a gene required for the proliferation *in vivo* of a pathogenic microorganism, comprising:
  - using a strain of the pathogenic microorganism,
- 5 generating mutants for inactivation in the genes encoding these factors,
  - determining the virulence of these mutants on an experimental model of infection, and their effect on enteric colonization in an axenic mouse model, and
- selecting the bacterial genes essential for resistance to serum in vitro, and essential, in the host, for dissemination in the serum.
- 2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized by the use of an *E.coli* strain EXPEC or a *Streptococcus agalactiae* strain.
  - 3. Mutant nucleic acids for inactivation of the virulence genes as implemented in the method according to Claim 1 or 2.
- 20 4. Mutant nucleic acids which are sensitive to serum; avirulent in mice model and able to colonize gut of axenic mice.
- 5. Pathogenicity or virulence targets encoded by isolated or purified nucleic acids corresponding to one of the nucleotide sequences SEQ ID Nos 16-30.
  - 6. Pathogenicity or virulence targets according to claim 5, wherein said nucleic acids correspond to one of the nucleotide sequences SEQ ID Nos 16,17,19-30.

- 7. Pathogenicity or virulence targets according to claim 5 or 6, wherein said nucleic acids are cDNAs.
- 8. Pathogenicity or virulence targets according to claim 5 or 6, wherein said nucleic acids are RNAs.
- Pathogenicity or virulence targets according to any one 9. of claims 6 to 8, wherein said nuclesic acids correspond to acids nucleic of pathogenic organisms the comprising Salmonella 10 Escherichia coli, typhimurium, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Yersinia pestis, Serratia marcescens, Haemophilus influenzae, Pasteurella multocida, Vibrio cholerae, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Acetinobacter, Moraxella catarrhalis, Burkholderia pseudomallei, Neisseria meningitidis, Neisseria Campylobacter 15 gonorrhoeae, jejuni, Helicobacter fragilis, Bacteroides Clostridium acetobutylicum, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Streptococcus pyogenes, Streptococcus agalactiae, Staphyloccus aureus and Enterococcus.

- 10. Pathogenicity or virulence targets according to claim 9 corresponding to nucleic acids of *E.coli* or *Streptococcus* agalactiae.
- 25 11. Vectors comprising at least one pathogenicity or virulence target according to any one of claims 5 to 10.
  - 12. Host cells containing at least one vector according to Claim 11.

30

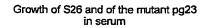
13. Products of expression of the pathogenicity or virulence targets according to any one of claims 5 to 10.

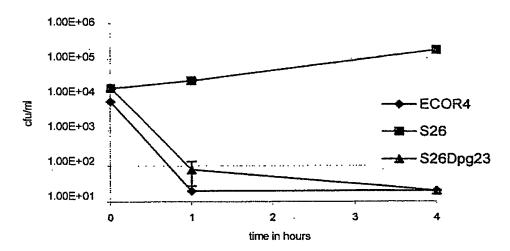
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30

- 14. Isolated or purified peptides characterized in that they correspond to one of the amino acid sequences SEQ ID Nos. 1 to 15.
- 5 15. Isolated or purified peptides according to claim 14 characterized in that they correspond to one of the amino acid sequences SEQ ID Nos 1,2,4-15.
- 16. Antibodies capable of binding specifically to the 10 peptides according to any one of Claims 13 to 15.
  - 17. Method for inhibiting in vitro the proliferation of a pathogenic microorganism in serum, comprising the use of an effective amount of a compound capable of inhibiting the activity, or of reducing the amount, of pathogenicity or virulence target according to any one of claims 6 to 10, or of inhibiting the activity of a peptide according to Claim 15.
- 18. Method for screening compounds capable of inhibiting the expression of the pathogenicity or virulence target according to any one of claims 6 to 10, or peptides according to claim 15, comprising bringing into contact with the test compound, demonstrating the possible effect of the compound on their activity, and selecting the active compounds.
  - 19. Method for screening compounds capable of inhibiting the biochemical and/or enzyme activity of the peptides expressed by the pathogenicity or virulence target according to any one of claims 6 to 10.
  - 20. Use of the compounds selected according to Claim 19, for developing medicinal products for inhibiting a bacterial infection, in particular an extra-intestinal infection in the case of enterobacteria.

FIGURE 1





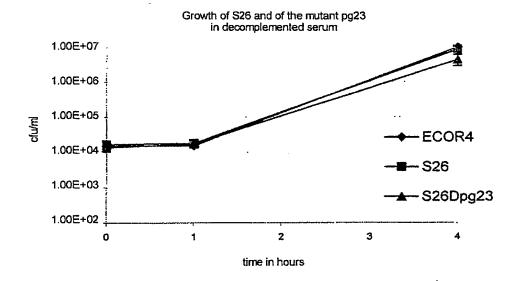


FIGURE 2

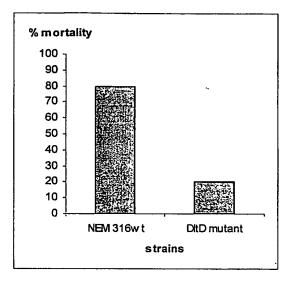


FIGURE 3

#### SEQUENCE LISTING

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Phe Ser Ala Pro Ile Lys Ala Glu Arg Lys Ala Phe Arg Glu Ala Leu 50 55 60
Gln Ala Glu Asn Tyr Asp Ala Val Ile Asp Ala Gln Gly Leu Val Lys 65 70 75 80
Ser Ala Ala Leu Val Thr Arg Leu Ala His Gly Val Lys His Gly Leu 85 90 95
Asp Trp Gln Thr Ala Arg Glu Pro Leu Ala Ser Leu Phe Tyr Asn Cys 100 105 110
Lys His His Ile Ala Lys Gln Gln His Ala Val Glu Arg Thr Arg Glu 115 120 125
Leu Phe Ala Lys Ser Leu Gly Tyr Ser Lys Pro Gln Thr Gln Gly Asp 130 135 140
Tyr Ala Ile Ala Gln His Phe Leu Thr Asn Leu Pro Thr Asp Ala Gly 145 150 155 160
Glu Tyr Ala Val Phe Leu His Ala Thr Thr Arg Asp Asp Lys His Trp 165 170 175
Pro Glu Glu His Trp Arg Glu Leu Ile Gly Leu Leu Ala Asp Ser Gly 180 185 190
Ile Arg Ile Lys Leu Pro Trp Gly Ala Pro His Glu Glu Arg Ala

Lys Arg Leu Ala Glu Gly Phe Ala Tyr Val Glu Val Leu Pro Lys Met 210 220

Ser Leu Glu Gly Val Ala Arg Val Leu Ala Gly Ala Lys Phe Val Val 225 230 235 240

Ser Val Asp Thr Gly Leu Ser His Leu Thr Ala Ala Leu Asp Arg Pro 245 250 255

Asn Ile Thr Val Tyr Gly Pro Thr Asp Pro Gly Leu Ile Gly Gly Tyr 260 265 270

Gly Lys Asn Gln Met Val Cys Arg Ala Pro Gly Asn Glu Leu Ser Gln 275 280 285

Leu Thr Ala Asn Ala Val Lys Arg Phe Ile Glu Glu Asn Ala Ala Met 290 295 300

Ile

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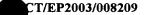
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Ala Arg Val Lys Ile Ser Gln Asp Tyr His His Arg Gln Ser Ala Phe
100 105 110

Trp Arg Lys Ser Phe Thr His Leu Val Pro Leu Gln Gly Gly Asn Val



Val Glu Ser Asn Leu Ser Val Leu Thr Pro Leu Gly Val Asp Ser Leu 130 135 140 .

Val Lys Gln Thr Thr Met Ser Tyr Pro Pro Ala Ser Trp Lys Arg Met 145 150 155 160

Arg Arg Glu Leu Asp His Ala Gly Val Gly Gln Asn Tyr Val Val Ile
165 170 175

Gln Pro Thr Ala Arg Gln Ile Phe Lys Cys Trp Asp Asn Ala Lys Phe 180 185 190

Ser Ala Val Ile Asp Ala Leu His Ala Arg Gly Tyr Glu Val Val Leu 195 200 205  $\cdot$ 

Thr Ser Gly Pro Asp Lys Asp Asp Leu Ala Cys Val Asn Glu Ile Ala 210 215 220

Gln Gly Cys Gln Thr Pro Pro Val Thr Ala Leu Ala Gly Lys Val Thr 225 230 235 240

Phe Pro Glu Leu Gly Ala Leu Ile Asp His Ala Gln Leu Phe Ile Gly 245 250 255

Val Asp Ser Ala Pro Ala His Ile Ala Ala Ala Val Asn Thr Pro Leu 260 265 270

Ile Ser Leu Phe Gly Ala Thr Asp His Ile Phe Trp Arg Pro Trp Ser 275 280 285

Asn Asn Met Ile Gln Phe Trp Ala Gly Asp Tyr Arg Glu Met Pro Thr 290 295 300

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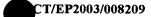
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Leu Ser Leu Arg Met Pro Val Leu Gly Ala Asp Arg Glu Trp Asn Ala 65 70 75 80

Ile His Arg Leu Arg Asp Val Gly Val Asp Thr Met Tyr Gly Val Ala 85 90 . 95

Phe Gly Glu Lys Gly Met Asn Pro Leu Thr Arg Thr Ser Phe Ile Ile 100 105 110

Thr Glu Asp Leu Thr Pro Thr Ile Ser Leu Glu Asp Tyr Cys Ala Asp 115 120 125

Trp Ala Thr Asn Pro Pro Asp Val Arg Val Lys Arg Met Leu Ile Lys
130 135 140

Arg Val Ala Thr Met Val Arg Asp Met His Ala Ala Gly Ile Asn His

Arg Asp Cys Tyr Ile Cys His Phe Leu Leu His Leu Pro Phe Ser Gly 165 170 175

Lys Glu Glu Leu Lys Ile Ser Val Ile Asp Leu His Arg Ala Gln 180 185 190

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195 200 205

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Arg Phe Met Lys Val Tyr Phe Ala Ala Pro Leu Lys Asp Ile Leu Lys 225 230 235 240

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- Phe Glu Leu Ile Lys Val Pro Val Lys Ser His Thr Asn His Gly Arg 50 55 60 .
- Asn Ala Glu Tyr Phe Ala Trp Val Gln Lys His Leu Arg Glu His Pro 65 70 75 80
- Val Asp Lys Val Val Gly Phe Asn Lys Met Pro Gly Leu Asp Val Tyr 85 90 95
- Tyr Ala Ala Asp Val Cys Tyr Ala Glu Lys Val Ala Gln Glu Lys Gly
  100 105 110
- Phe Phe Tyr Arg Leu Thr Ser Arg Tyr Arg His Tyr Ala Ala Phe Glu 115 120 125
- Arg Ala Thr Phe Glu Gln Gly Lys Pro Thr Gln Leu Leu Met Leu Thr 130 140
- Asp Lys Gln Ile Ala Asp Phe Gln Lys His Tyr Gln Thr Glu Ala Glu 145 150 155 160
- Arg Phe His Ile Leu Pro Pro Gly Ile Tyr Pro Asp Arg Lys Tyr Ser 165 170 175
- Gln Gln Pro Ala Asn Ser Arg Glu Ile Phe Arg Lys Lys Asn Gly Ile 180 185 190
- Thr Glu Gln Gln Tyr Leu Leu Gln Val Gly Ser Asp Phe Thr Arg 195 200 205
- Lys Gly Val Asp Arg Ser Ile Glu Ala Leu Ala Ser Leu Pro Asp Ser 210 225 220
- Leu Arg His Asn Thr Leu Leu Tyr Val Val Gly Gln Asp Lys Pro Arg 225 230 235 240
- Lys Phe Glu Ala Leu Ala Glu Lys Arg Gly Val Arg Ser Asn Val His

250

255

Phe Phe Ser Gly Arg Asn Asp Val Ser Glu Leu Met Ala Ala Asp 260 265 270

Leu Leu His Pro Ala Tyr Gln Glu Ala Ala Gly Ile Val Leu Leu 275 280 285

Glu Ala Ile Thr Ala Gly Leu Pro Val Leu Thr Thr Ala Val Cys Gly 290 295 300

Tyr Ala His Tyr Ile Val Asp Ala Asn Cys Gly Glu Ala Ile Ala Glu 305 310 315 320

Pro Phe Arg Gln Glu Thr Leu Asn Glu Ile Leu Arg Lys Ala Leu Thr 325 330 335

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Ile Asp Val Met Ala Pro Ala Trp Cys Arg Pro Leu Leu Ser Arg Met 35 40 45

Pro Glu Val Asn Glu Ala Ile Pro Met Pro Leu Gly His Gly Ala Leu 50 55 60

Glu Ile Gly Glu Arg Arg Lys Leu Gly His Ser Leu Arg Glu Lys Arg 65 70 75 80

Tyr Asp Arg Ala Tyr Val Leu Pro Asn Ser Phe Lys Ser Ala Leu Val 85 90 95

Pro Phe Phe Ala Gly Ile Pro His Arg Thr Gly Trp Arg Gly Glu Met

100 105 110

Arg Tyr Gly Leu Leu Asn Asp Val Arg Val Leu Asp Lys Glu Ala Trp
115 120 125

Pro Leu Met Val Glu Arg Tyr Ile Ala Leu Ala Tyr Asp Lys Gly Ile 130 135 140

Met Arg Thr Ala Gln Asp Leu Pro Gln Pro Leu Leu Trp Pro Gln Leu 145 150 155 160

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Ser Ser Glu Arg Pro Met Ile Gly Phe Cys Pro Gly Ala Glu Phe Gly 180 185 190

Pro Ala Lys Arg Trp Pro His Tyr His Tyr Ala Glu Leu Ala Lys Gln
195 200 205

Leu Ile Asp Glu Gly Tyr Gln Val Val Leu Phe Gly Ser Ala Lys Asp 210 215 220

His Glu Ala Gly Asn Glu Ile Leu Ala Ala Leu Asn Thr Glu Gln Gln 225 230 235 240

Ala Trp Cys Arg Asn Leu Ala Gly Glu Thr Gln Leu Asp Gln Ala Val 245 250 255

Ile Leu Ile Ala Ala Cys Lys Ala Ile Val Thr Asn Asp Ser Gly Leu 260 265 270

Met His Val Ala Ala Ala Leu Asn Arg Pro Leu Val Ala Leu Tyr Gly 275 280 285

Pro Ser Ser Pro Asp Phe Thr Pro Pro Leu Ser His Lys Ala Arg Val 290 295 300

Ile Arg Leu Ile Thr Gly Tyr His Lys Val Arg Lys Gly Asp Ala Ala 305 310 315 320

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Thr Ser Val Leu Leu His Asn Asn Asp Val Ser Phe Val Phe His Val
50 60

Phe Ile Asp Asp Ile Pro Glu Ala Asp Ile Gln Arg Leu Ala Gln Leu 65 70 75 80

Ala Lys Ser Tyr Arg Thr Cys Ile Gln Ile His Leu Val Asn Cys Glu 85 90 95

Arg Leu Lys Ala Leu Pro Thr Thr Lys Asn Trp Ser Ile Ala Met Tyr 100 105 110

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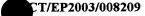
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Lys Asn Ser Ile Glu Asn His Phe Asp Thr Ser Phe Glu Leu Glu Ala 65 70 75 80

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Glu Thr Gly His Ser Gln Ile Met Val Glu Pro Val Ala Asp Val Thr 165

Ala Tyr Gly Val Val Asp Cys Lys Gly Val Glu Leu Ala Pro Gly Glu 185

Ser Val Pro Met Val Gly Val Val Glu Lys Pro Lys Ala Asp Val Ala

Pro Ser Asn Leu Ala Ile Val Gly Arg Tyr Val Leu Ser Ala Asp Ile

Trp Pro Leu Leu Ala Lys Thr Pro Pro Gly Ala Gly Asp Glu Ile Gln

Leu Thr Asp Ala Ile Asp Met Leu Ile Glu Lys Glu Thr Val Glu Ala

Tyr His Met Lys Gly Lys Ser His Asp Cys Gly Asn Lys Leu Gly Tyr 265

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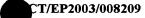
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Gly Ser Ala Ala Arg His Ser Phe Asn Glu Pro His Ile Leu Ala Ile

Ala Gln Ala Ile Ala Glu Glu Arg Ala Lys Asn Gly Ile Thr Gly Pro 75



Cys Tyr Val Gly Lys Asp Thr His Ala Leu Ser Glu Pro Ala Phe Ile 85 90 95

Ser Val Leu Glu Val Leu Ala Ala Asn Gly Val Asp Val Ile Val Gln
100 105 110

Glu Asn Asn Gly Phe Thr Pro Thr Pro Ala Val Ser Asn Ala Ile Leu 115 120 125

Val His Asn Lys Lys Gly Gly Pro Leu Ala Asp Gly Ile Val Ile Thr 130 135 140

Pro Ser His Asn Pro Pro Glu Asp Gly Gly Ile Lys Tyr Asn Pro Pro 145 150 155 160

Asn Gly Gly Pro Ala Asp Thr Asn Val Thr Lys Val Val Glu Asp Arg

Ala Asn Ala Leu Leu Ala Asp Gly Leu Lys Gly Val Lys Arg Ile Ser

Leu Asp Glu Ala Met Ala Ser Gly His Val Lys Glu Gln Asp Leu Val

Gln Pro Phe Val Glu Gly Leu Ala Asp Ile Val Asp Met Ala Ala Ile 210 215 220

Gln Lys Ala Gly Leu Thr Leu Gly Val Asp Pro Leu Gly Gly Ser Gly 225 230 235 240

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Ile Val Asn Asp Gln Val Asp Gln Thr Phe Arg Phe Met His Leu Asp 260 265 270

Lys Asp Gly Ala Ile Arg Met Asp Cys Ser Ser Glu Cys Ala Met Ala 275 280 285

Gly Leu Leu Ala Leu Arg Asp Lys Phe Asp Leu Ala Phe Ala Asn Asp 290 295 300

Pro Asp Tyr Asp Arg His Gly Ile Val Thr Pro Ala Gly Leu Met Asn 305 310 315

Pro Asn His Tyr Leu Ala Val Ala Ile Asn Tyr Leu Phe Gln His Arg

Pro Gln Trp Gly Lys Asp Val Ala Val Gly Lys Thr Leu Val Ser Ser

340 345 350

Ala Met Ile Asp Arg Val Val Asn Asp Leu Gly Arg Lys Leu Val Glu 355 360 365

Val Pro Val Gly Phe Lys Trp Phe Val Asp Gly Leu Phe Asp Gly Ser 370 375 380

Phe Gly Phe Gly Glu Glu Ser Ala Gly Ala Ser Phe Leu Arg Phe 385 390 395 400

Asp Gly Thr Pro Trp Ser Thr Asp Lys Asp Gly Ile Ile Met Cys Leu 405 410 415

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Tyr Asn Glu Leu Ala Lys Arg Phe Gly Ala Pro Ser Tyr Asn Arg Leu 435 440 445

Gln Ala Ala Ala Thr Ser Ala Gln Lys Ala Ala Leu Ser Lys Leu Ser 450 455 460

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Arg Leu Thr Ala Ala Pro Gly Asn Gly Ala Ser Ile Gly Gly Leu Lys 485 490 495

Val Met Thr Asp Asn Gly Trp Phe Ala Ala Arg Pro Ser Gly Thr Glu 500 505 510

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Asn Ala 545

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Met Ser Arg Met Phe Gly Ala Gln Leu Phe Asn Gly Thr Ser Ala Asp 70 75 80

Ser Gly Ala Thr Val Gly Phe Asn Pro Asp Tyr Ile Leu Asn Pro Gly 85 90 95

Asp Ser Ile Gln Val Arg Leu Trp Gly Ala Phe Thr Phe Asp Gly Ala 100 105 110

Leu Gln Val Asp Pro Lys Gly Asn Ile Phe Leu Pro Asn Val Gly Pro 115 120 125

Val Lys Val Ala Gly Val Ser Asn Ser Gln Leu Asn Ala Leu Val Thr 130 135 140

Ser Lys Val Lys Glu Val Tyr Gln Ser Asn Val Asn Val Tyr Ala Ser 145 150 155 160

Leu Leu Gln Ala Gln Pro Val Lys Val Tyr Val Thr Gly Phe Val Arg 165 170 175

Asn Pro Gly Leu Tyr Gly Gly Val Thr Ser Asp Ser Leu Leu Asn Tyr 180 185 190

Leu Ile Lys Ala Gly Gly Val Asp Pro Glu Arg Gly Ser Tyr Val Asp 195 200 205

Ile Val Val Lys Arg Gly Asn Arg Val Arg Ser Asn Val Asn Leu Tyr 210 215 220

Asp Phe Leu Leu Asn Gly Lys Leu Gly Leu Ser Gln Phe Ala Asp Gly 225 230 235 240

Asp Thr Ile Ile Val Gly Pro Arg Gln His Thr Phe Ser Val Gln Gly 245 250 255

Asp Val Phe Asn Ser Tyr Asp Phe Glu Phe Arg Glu Ser Ser Ile Pro 260 265 270

Val Thr Glu Ala Leu Ser Trp Ala Arg Pro Lys Pro Gly Ala Thr His 275 280 285 Ile Thr Ile Met Arg Lys Gln Gly Leu Gln Lys Arg Ser Glu Tyr Tyr 290 295 300

Pro Ile Ser Ser Ala Pro Gly Arg Met Leu Gln Asn Gly Asp Thr Leu 305 310 315 320

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420 425 430

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Gly Glu Val Leu Phe Pro Asn Ala Val Ser Trp Gln Lys Gly Met Thr 465 470 475 480

Thr Glu Asp Tyr Ile Glu Lys Cys Gly Gly Leu Thr Gln Lys Ser Gly 485 490 495

Asn Ala Arg Ile Ile Val Ile Arg Gln Asn Gly Ala Ala Val Asn Ala 500 505 510

Glu Asp Val Asp Ser Leu Lys Pro Gly Asp Glu Ile Met Val Leu Pro 515 520 525

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Asp Ile Ala Asp Ile Glu Asn Lys Asp Asn Tyr Tyr Tyr Phe Ile Gly

Ile Gly Lys Pro Ser Thr Arg Lys His Tyr Leu Asn Ile Ile Arg Lys

His Asn Leu Arg Leu Ile Asn Ile Ile Asp Lys Thr Ala Ile Leu Ser

Pro Asn Ile Ile Leu Gly Asp Gly Ile Phe Ile Gly Lys Met Cys Ile 105

Leu Asn Arg Asp Thr Arg Ile His Asp Ala Val Val Ile Asn Thr Arg 115

Ser Leu Ile Glu His Gly Asn Glu Ile Gly Cys Cys Ser Asn Ile Ser 130

Thr Asn Val Val Leu Asn Gly Asp Val Ser Val Gly Glu Glu Thr Phe 145

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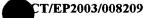
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Leu Val Val Val Thr Asn Gln Ser Gly Ile Ala Arg Gly Lys Phe Thr

Glu Ala Gln Phe Glu Thr Leu Thr Glu Trp Met Asp Trp Ser Leu Ala

Asp Arg Asp Val Asp Leu Asp Gly Ile Tyr Tyr Cys Pro His His Pro

Gln Gly Ser Val Glu Glu Phe Arg Gln Val Cys Asp Cys Arg Lys Pro

His Pro Gly Met Leu Leu Ser Ala Arg Asp Tyr Leu His Ile Asp Met

Ala Ala Ser Tyr Met Val Gly Asp Lys Leu Glu Asp Met Gln Ala Ala 130 135

Val Ala Ala Asn Val Gly Thr Lys Val Leu Val Arg Thr Gly Lys Pro 145 150

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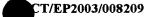
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Tyr Ala Ser Ser Ala Ala Thr Tyr Gly Gly Arg Thr Ser Asp Phe Ile 115 120 125

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Arg Pro Gly Gly Ala Ala Asn Val Ala Met Asn Ile Ala Ser Leu Gly 50 60

Ala Asn Ala Arg Leu Val Gly Leu Thr Gly Ile Asp Asp Ala Ala Arg 65 70 75 80

Ala Leu Ser Lys Ser Leu Ala Asp Val Asn Val Lys Cys Asp Phe Val 85 90 95

Ser Val Pro Thr His Pro Thr Ile Thr Lys Leu Arg Val Leu Ser Arg 100 105 110

Asn Gln Gln Leu Ile Arg Leu Asp Phe Glu Glu Gly Phe Glu Gly Val 115 120 125

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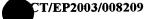
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195 200 205

Glu Glu Glu Ile Val Glu Arg Gly Met Lys Leu Ile Ala Asp Tyr Glu 210 215 220

Leu Ser Ala Leu Leu Val Thr Arg Ser Glu Gln Gly Met Ser Leu Leu



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Phe Lys Ser Arg Val Gln Lys Val Arg Ala Phe Ser Asp Pro Lys Ala 50 60

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Met His Pro Ser Val Leu Ala Glu Ala Tyr Lys Arg Pro Tyr Ile Pro 85 90 95

Tyr Leu Leu Gly Gln Lys Gly Ala Ala Ser Leu Thr Gln Tyr Tyr Gly
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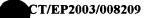
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Lys Ser Val Glu Lys Ile Lys His Gln Leu Gln Ser Gln Gly Phe Asn 340 345 350

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Gly Leu Val Glu Lys Ser Pro Val Leu Val Phe Gly Gly Gln Glu Tyr 50 55 60



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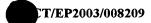
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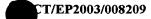


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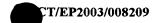
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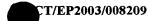
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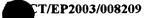
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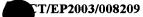
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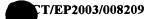
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<sup>&</sup>lt;210> 25

<sup>&</sup>lt;211> 624

<sup>&</sup>lt;212> DNA

<sup>&</sup>lt;213> Escherichia coli



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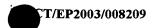
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<sup>&</sup>lt;211> 1434

<sup>&</sup>lt;212> DNA

<sup>&</sup>lt;213> Escherichia coli

<sup>&</sup>lt;400> 28



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<213> Escherichia coli

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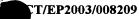
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<sup>&</sup>lt;211> 60

<sup>&</sup>lt;212> DNA

<sup>&</sup>lt;213> Escherichia coli

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<210> 32 <211> 60

<212> DNA <213> Escherichia coli <400> 32

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